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PLANT PATHOLOGY IN ITS RELATIONS TO OTHER SCIENCES

IN the naming of this association of scientists, The Illinois Academy of Science,¹ there was recognized a very subtle tendency in advancing civilization and modern educational thought. It has often been noted that as civilization becomes more highly developed, it also becomes more complicated, and men become more dependent upon one another. So, too, as knowledge increases in volume and in extent, the fields of study which were formerly quite independent grow closer together, and, new fields opening up, find themselves involved with many others already existing. We are finding, in fact, that knowledge is a unit—not a mere assemblage of disconnected ideas, so that it is advantageous, now and then, to examine a new science, and to discover, in so far as we can, with what other parts of the body of science it may be intimately related. Therefore, it has seemed advisable to consider, this morning, how plant pathology is related to other sciences.

Plant pathology is one of the youngest, and perhaps one of the least understood, of the recently developed sciences. When considered in its broadest meaning, it is for plants, as medical science is for man, a study of the normal, and of the diseased conditions of the organism. In the narrower and more widely accepted sense, however, it deals with the abnormalities

¹This paper was read before the academy at its first regular meeting, held at Decatur, Illinois, February 22, 1908.